Dear Paul, 6/1/75

Your calling was a pleasant surprise. And as soon as we'd said, "goodbye" if I'd been able to afford it I'd have phoned back. As soon as I had a chance to think some ideas and approaches did come to mind.

It seems to me that one who is interested in either the property or just helping ought take this a step at a time.

First, is he willing? If he is we can go from there.

While I would not do it without asking first, it seems to me that the fastest way for anyone to learn the nature of the investigation I have conducted and get a dependable evaluation of the material is from an impartial person who has seen some of it. For this it occurs to me that if his situation presents no policy problem, the administrative assistant to the Congressman who was here a week ago would be ideal. He began life as a reporter and has been in his present Congressional post for two decades.

I am aware that people in all walks of life have problems. Believe me, the political people do! (My wife and I both worked on Capitol Hill, where we met.)

Two of the differences that attracted these people to me are first, my effort to make decent citizens of the pimps and whores in this field. That is where it began. (Boasting: they then saw me handle a two-hour press conference with about 40 of the New York City press when I had pneumonia, pleurisy and a fever of 102 and I got a good reception and no single snide question.) Next they asked me for a position paper. Instead of trying to pour out all the fact I knew they wanted I addressed all the problems I anticipated they could anticipate or have and how each could and would be met. They began with amending the resolution already introduced. I don't know because I've had no interest but I'll bet it has been done or is to be at what they consider the right moment.

Off the top let me make a few suggestions for those with whom you are in touch as you seem to think they see problems.

I begin with the assumption that for what can be the yield the initial cost is negligible. From this I suggest that for this relatively small cost, tax deductible, if what is quite possible happens they'll have a windfall. If it happens all the problems seen will disappear immediately. I think the real questions are not will it happen but when and how.

There are ways of handling this that are indirect, proper and also tax-exempt. Two institutions want my files for permanent, historical archives. One, quite prestigeous in history, also wants to do oral histories. I'm waiting for a foundation that in return will just keep me going. I've lived modestly so long I have no great ambitions along that line. Only to be able to continue my present work, which can yield more literary properties and I think will.

We begin with the will, not the way. The way really presents no problems and no dangers unless and until there is full use. I do not think it will then. By the time this can be all problems may have worked their way out.

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Best regards,